



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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KANSAS CHIROPRACTOR CHARGED WITH HEALTH CARE FRAUD

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced today that **Ella Ladd**, 45, Stillwell, Kansas, was charged on February 12, 2004, with one count of health care fraud and one count of forfeiture.

Melgren said that Ladd is scheduled to make her initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Kansas, on February 23, 2004, at 8:30 a.m. before U.S. Magistrate Judge James P. O'Hara.

An information filed with the court alleges that from January 2000 through April 2003, Ladd, a chiropractor licensed in the State of Kansas, doing business as Synergistic Medical Care, P.A., with offices in Overland Park, Kansas, willfully executed a scheme to defraud a health care benefit program by billing personal training at a gym as physical therapy and by billing as though a Doctor of Osteopathy was performing services when a Doctor of Osteopathy was not present to perform services. The information further alleges that the scheme resulted in a loss of approximately \$29,031 in false billings to a health care benefit program.

If convicted, Ladd faces a maximum of ten years in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Service, Office of Inspector General, and the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tanya Treadway.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The charges filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.